



## NEWS RELEASE

**Prospective Plantings  
March 31, 2003**

### 2003 PLANTING INTENTIONS

#### North Dakota

North Dakota producers intend to plant 6.80 million acres of **spring wheat** in 2003, according to the USDA's North Dakota Agricultural Statistics Service. In 2002, 6.90 million acres were planted. These estimates are based on a survey of grower's intentions during the first two weeks of March.

**Durum wheat** planting intentions total 2.00 million acres, down from 2.10 million acres last year.

**Winter wheat** seeded last fall totaled 130,000 acres. This compares to 80,000 acres planted a year earlier.

**Barley** producers intend to plant 2.00 million acres, up from 1.60 million acres in 2002.

**Oat** intentions are 580,000 acres down from 670,000 acres last year. Of the 580,000 acres to be planted, 290,000 acres are expected to be harvested for grain the same as last year.

**All corn** planting intentions are 1.35 million acres, up from 1.23 million acres last year. The record high was 1.67 million acres, set in 1934.

**Soybean** producers intend to plant 3.00 million acres, a new record high if realized, and a increase of 330,000 acres from 2002. Seventy percent of those acres are to be planted to herbicide resistant varieties, compared to 61 percent last year.

**Dry edible bean** producers expect to plant 600,000 acres in 2003. Last year 790,000 acres were planted.

**Canola** planting intentions are 1.10 million acres, down from 1.30 million acres in 2002.

**Oil sunflower** planting intentions are 1.15 million acres, no change when compared to last year.

**Non-oil sunflower** planting intentions are 200,000 acres, a decrease of 20,000 acres from 2002.

**Sugarbeet** growers expect to plant 255,000 acres in 2003, down from 265,000 last year.

Farmers and ranchers intend to harvest 2.40 million acres of **all hay**. This is 900,000 acres below last year's 3.30 million acres. Last year's relatively large harvested acreage was a result of the opening of Conservation Reserve Program land and State land for haying and also the baling of failed small grains.

#### United States

The 2003 **other spring wheat** planted acreage is estimated at 14.6 million, down 7 percent from last year.

Area planted to **durum wheat** is intended to total 2.83 million acres, down 3 percent from a year ago.

**Winter wheat** planted area for the 2003 crop is 44.3 million acres, up 6 percent from 2002.

**Barley** growers intend to seed 5.38 million acres for 2003, up 6 percent from a year ago.

**Oat** acres seeded and to be seeded for the 2003 crop year are expected to total 4.83 million, down 4 percent from last year's planted area. Growers expect to harvest 2.20 million acres for grain, 5 percent more than the 2002 harvested acreage of 2.10 million.

**Corn** growers intend to plant 79.0 million acres of corn for all purposes in 2003, virtually unchanged from 2002 but 4 percent above 2001.

**Soybean** growers intend to plant an estimated 73.2 million acres of soybeans, down 1 percent from last year and, if realized, the lowest planted area since 1998. This is the third consecutive year that soybean acreage has declined in the United States.

Prospective 2003 planting of **dry beans** in the U.S. totals 1.52 million acres, down 21 percent from last year but 6 percent above two years ago.

**Canola** producers intend to plant 1.25 million acres in 2003, a decrease of 14 percent from 2002. This is the third consecutive year that canola acreage has declined in the United States.

**Sunflower** acres intended for oil type varieties, at 2.12 million acres, are virtually unchanged from the 2002 acreage, while the non-oil varieties, estimated at 394,000 acres, are down 14 percent from last year.

Area planted to **sugarbeets** for the 2003 crop year is expected to total 1.40 million acres, 2 percent below the 2002 planted area.

**Hay** producers expect to harvest 63.6 million acres of all hay in 2003, down 1 percent from 2002.

**For More Information Contact:**

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PROSPECTIVE PLANTINGS, MARCH 1, 2003

Crop	NORTH DAKOTA				UNITED STATES			
	Area Planted			2003 as % 2002	Area Planted			2003 as % 2002
	2001	2002	Indicated 2003		2001	2002	Indicated 2003	
	--- 1,000 Acres ---			Pct	--- 1,000 Acres ---			Pct
Corn, All	880	1,230	1,350	110	75,752	79,054	79,022	100
Wheat, All	9,450	9,080	8,930	98	59,597	60,358	61,697	102
Durum	2,200	2,100	2,000	95	2,910	2,909	2,833	97
Other Spring	7,100	6,900	6,800	99	15,609	15,714	14,556	93
Winter	150	80	130	163	41,078	41,735	44,308	106
Oats, Planted	575	670	580	87	4,403	5,005	4,828	96
Harvest for Grain	240	290	290	100	1,905	2,098	2,204	105
Barley	1,500	1,600	2,000	125	4,967	5,073	5,379	106
Sunflower, All	1,070	1,370	1,350	99	2,633	2,585	2,517	97
Oil	850	1,150	1,150	100	2,117	2,125	2,123	100
Non-Oil	220	220	200	91	516	460	394	86
Sugarbeets	261.0	265.0	255.0	96	1,370.5	1,427.9	1,399.3	98
Soybeans	2,150	2,670	3,000	112	74,075	73,758	73,182	99
Dry Edible Beans	440.0	790.0	600.0	76	1,435.9	1,922.1	1,522.8	79
Canola	1,300	1,300	1,100	85	1,494	1,459	1,249	86
All Hay <sup>1/</sup>	2,700	3,300	2,400	73	63,521	64,497	63,552	99

1/ Acreage for harvest.

